

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

What is claimed is:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A player-funded ball-based gaming system comprising:

a target, ~~said target~~ having a top surface and at least one portion of said top surface having [[an]] at least one opening in operable connection to a target reader/transmitter, said target reader/transmitter further comprising an entry portion, a guide portion, and an exit portion, a first RFID reader configured such that a ball, upon entering said entry portion, will follow said guide portion past said first RFID reader in a readable manner and then exit via said exit portion, and where said target reader/transmitter is operable for communication with at least one server;

a second RFID reader configured to read a ball RFID tag enclosed in a ball before said ball reaches said top surface, and extract ball IDs thereby and further configured to be in operable communications with at least one server;

a site server operable for communication with said at least one target reader/transmitter and said second RFID reader and configured to make at least one calculation regarding ball data using data received by said site server from at

least one of: said target reader/transmitter; or, said second RFID reader, said site server further comprising a database and a program configured to enable play of at least one game ~~having at least one of comprising a pari-mutuel system or a player-funded progressive system, said progressive system comprising a system to determine and distribute winnings from a pool to a plurality of players comprising differing bet amounts for a game configured to be player-funded by pooling a portion of said bet amounts collected as part of enabling RFID-equipped balls for game play said pari-mutuel system enabled to determine and distribute winnings from a pool to a plurality of players comprising differing bet amounts for a game, and said progressive system player funding comprising funding using a portion of funds collected as part of enabling RFID-equipped balls for game play;~~

 said database configured to retrievably hold ball IDs in association with one of: other ball IDs; or, at least one player ID, and further configured to hold data sent by said target reader/transmitter and said second RFID reader, and store said calculated ball data, in a manner retrievable by one of: a player ID; or, a ball ID[.] :

a cashier station configured to be in communication with said site server and a central server, said cashier station further configured to receive and process a plurality of paying actions, said paying actions comprising ball purchased, tee fees, and payouts for said at least one game; and

a WWW server configured to be in communication with said site server, said cashier station and said central server, enabled to allow logged in users to

retrieve a plurality of information comprising individual player account data, a plurality of results of ongoing tournaments,

Claim 2 (Original): The system of claim 1 where said first RFID reader is configured such that its antenna coils are wrapped in a tubular manner around said central guide.

Claim 3 (Original): The system of claim 1 where said second RFID reader is configured such that its antenna coils are wrapped in a tubular manner around a guide, said guide configured to enable a ball to pass through said tubular antenna coils.

Claim 4 (Original): The system of claim 1 further comprising a sensor located near at least one ball launch area, said sensor configured to detect a ball that is one of: placed on the ball launch area; hit from the ball launch area; or, both placed on, and hit from, the ball-launch area; and is further configured to transmit data about said detected ball to a server.

Claim 5 (Original): The system of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of servers, where said plurality of servers are in operable communication with each other, and where one of said plurality of servers further comprises a database, said database configured for player accounts, and further configured to hold one

of: target data, ball ID data, detected ball data; or, target data and ball ID data and detected ball data in a manner associated with a player account.

Claim 6 (Original): The system of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of servers, where said plurality of servers are in operable communication with each other, and where one of said plurality of servers further comprises a database, said database configured for storing data in a manner retrievable using ball IDs, and further configured to hold one of: target data, a plurality of ball IDs, detected ball data; or, target data and ball ID data and detected ball data in a manner associated with a ball ID.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Original): The system of claim 1 where said target, said first RFID reader, and said second RFID reader are configured to read one of: a golf ball; a basketball; a baseball; or, a football.

Claim 9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 where said at least one target further comprises at least one mobile target having at least one of said target reader/transmitter.

Claims 11 – 12 (Canceled).

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A method of using a ball range system, the ball range system having at least one target, the target having an RFID reader in communication with a plurality of servers ~~server, said plurality of servers comprising at least one [[the]]~~ server having a database and further having a program configured to use said database to enable a player to play at least one game ~~having at least one of a comprising pari-mutuel system or a player-funded progressive system,~~ the method comprising:

configuring said pari-mutuel progressive system to determine and distribute winnings from a pool to a plurality of players comprising differing bet amounts for a game;

configuring said progressive system to be ~~enableable~~ for player-funded by pooling a portion of funds collected as part of enabling RFID-equipped balls for game play;

providing a set of balls having RFIDs therein, where said set of balls comprises at least one ball;

storing said set of ball IDs on said database, said ball IDs comprising RFIDs and global positioning system (GPS) information;

associating said set of ball IDs with an account on said database;

allowing said set of balls to be launched from a ball launch area towards at least one target having at least one ball receptacle attached thereto, said at least one target configured to be moveable;

gathering data on any hits on any target by said launched balls;
sending said hit data to [[a]] said server and retrievably storing it
associated with a player ID;
communicating information from said server and said database to a
cashier station configured to be in communication with said plurality of servers;
enabling said cashier station to access and process a plurality of paying
actions composing ball purchases, tee fees, and payouts of said at least one
game; and
enabling a person having access to said account to retrieve data about
said ball hits and any other data collected pursuant to using said set of balls.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13 where said providing a set of balls is a set of purchased for play by a player at ~~a range~~ said cashier[[s]] station.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 13 where said providing a set of balls is a set of balls owned by a player, and brought to the range by said player.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 13 where said associating said set of ball IDs with an account further comprises associating said set of ball IDs with a specific player account.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 13 where said associating said set of ball IDs with an account further comprises associating said set of ball IDs with an anonymous player account.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13 where said associating said set of ball IDs with an account further comprises associating said set of ball IDs into a group, said group being accessible using any one of the ball IDs contained in the group and providing for team-based play of said at least one game.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13 where said gathering data on any hits on any target further comprises:

 providing a plurality of targets;
 recording data on any ball from said set of balls that reaches any target;
 sending said gathered data to a site server;
 gathering all sent data in said database;
 providing said data to any authorized user, player, or program running on said server and said cashier station.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 13 where said target, said target RFID reader, and said range entry RFID reader are configured to read one of: a golf ball; a basketball; a baseball; or, a football.

Claims 21 – 24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): A method of wagering using a ball range having a ball range system, the ball range system having at least one target, the target having an RFID reader in communication with a plurality of servers, said plurality of servers comprising a ~~a~~ server, the server having a database and further having a program configured to use said database to enable a player to play at least one game comprising ~~having at least one of a pari-mutuel system or~~ a player-funded progressive system, the method comprising:

configuring said pari-mutuel progressive system to determine and distribute winnings from a pool to a plurality of players comprising differing bet amounts for a game;

player-funding said progressive system comprising pooling a portion of funds collected as part of enabling RFID-equipped balls for game play;

reading a set of balls at a range entry golf ball RFID reader;

associating a player with said set of balls;

accepting payment from a player for a wager, said wager based on using said set of balls;

allowing said player to go to a ball-launch area;

recording in said database output from a sensor located in said ball-launch area each time a ball is placed in said ball-launch area;

recording each ball from said set of balls that hits a target; and,

determining if said set of balls have been played and if said set of balls that hit a target comprise a winning event, said target having at least one ball receptacle.

communicating information from said server and said database to a cashier station configured to be in communication with said plurality of servers;
and

enabling said cashier station to access and process a plurality of paying actions comprising ball purchases, tee fees, and payouts of said at least one game;

Claim 26 (Original): The method of claim 25 where said associating a player with said set of balls further comprises associating a player ID with said set of balls.

Claim 27 (Original): The method of claim 25 where said associating a player with said set of balls further comprises associating an anonymous player ID with said set of balls.

Claim 28 (Original): The method of claim 25 where said target, said target RFID reader, and said range entry RFID reader are configured to read one of: a golf ball; a basketball; a baseball; or, a football.

Claim 29 (Canceled).

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 25 where said at least one target further comprises at least one mobile target.

Claims 31 – 32 (Canceled).

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A method of creating enhanced player interest at a ball range having a ball range system, the ball range system having at least one moveable.target, the target having an RFID reader in communication with a server and at least one ball receptacle attached thereto, the server having a database further having a program configured to use said database to enable a player to play at least one game having at least one ~~ef a pari-mutuel system or a~~ player-funded progressive system, the method comprising:

configuring said ~~pari-mutuel~~ progressive system to determine and distribute winnings from a pool to a plurality of players comprising differing bet amounts for a game;

configuring said progressive system to allow enablement of player-funding by pooling a portion of funds collected as part of enabling RFID-equipped balls for game play;

displaying games and associated player-funded pool amounts in a manner visible to a player;

updating said player-funded pool amounts as said games are being played by players; ~~[[and,]]~~

displaying amounts won by players upon the occurrence of game winning events[[.]] ;

communicating information from said server and said database to a cashier station configured to be in communication with said plurality of servers; and

enabling said cashier station to access and process a plurality of paying actions comprising ball purchases, tee fees, and payouts of said at least one game;

Claim 34 (Original): The method of claim 33 where said target, said target RFID reader, and said range entry RFID reader are configured to read one of: a golf ball; a basketball; a baseball; or, a football.

Claim 35 (Canceled).

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 33 where said at least one target further comprises at least one mobile target.

Claims 37 – 38 (Canceled).

Claim 39 (Currently Amended): The system of claim 1 where ~~said pari-mutuel system or said progressive system~~ comprises a plurality of sites.

Claim 40 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 13 where ~~said pari-mutuel system or said progressive system~~ comprises a plurality of sites.

Claim 41 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 25 where ~~said pari-mutuel system or said progressive system~~ comprises a plurality of sites.

Claim 42 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 33 where ~~said pari-mutuel system or said progressive system~~ comprises a plurality of sites.